

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SAJ-01 CU-02 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02

SS-15 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06

PRS-01 /067 W

-----071539Z 104413 /53

R 071420Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2890

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SANTIAGO 0164

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SHUM PFOR CI CU UR

SUBJECT: WHERE HAVE ALL THE CHILDREN GONE?

1. SUMMARY: A SANTIAGO NEWSPAPER HAS BEEN RUNNING A SERIES ON ANGUISHED MOTHERS OF 200 YOUTHS WHO LEFT CHILE TO STUDY IN THE USSR AND CUBA JUST BEFORE THE 1973 COUP. THE GOC SAYS IT WILL INQUIRE ABOUT THEIR CURRENT STATUS BUT HAS NOT CHOSEN TO CAPITALIZE ON WHAT MIGHT POSSIBLY BE EXPLOITED AS AN EXCELLENT EXAMPLE OF COMMUNIST "CRUELTY." WE WOULD BE INTERESTED IN ADDRESSEES' COMMENTS. END SUMMARY.

2. CENTRIST MORNINGER "LA TERCERA" HAS CARRIED A SERIES OF NEWS STORIES REPORTING THAT PARENTS OF SOME 200 UNDER-PRIVILEGED YOUTHS SENT TO THE USSR AND CUBA BY THE ALLENDE GOVERNMENT JUST BEFORE THE COUP IN SEPTEMBER 1973 HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO COMMUNICATE WITH THEIR OFFSPRING AND BELIEVE THE COMMUNISTS MAY BE HOLDING THEM AGAINST THEIR WILL. REPORTEDLY, THE SOVIETS OFFERED SCHOLARSHIPS TO THE YOUTHS, MOST OF THEM FROM LOW INCOME FAMILIES AND STUDENTS AT SEVERAL VOCATIONAL SCHOOLS NEAR SANTIAGO. THE PARENTS CLAIM THAT THEY HAVE NO IDEA WHERE THEIR CHILDREN ARE, THAT THEIR LETTERS GO UNANSWERED, AND THAT IN ONE

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CASE WHERE A REPLY WAS RECEIVED, THE STUDENT INTIMATED THAT HIS RESPONSE WAS WRITTEN UNDER CENSORSHIP.

3. OTHER MEDIA HAVE PICKED UP THE STORY BUT PLAYED IT IN LOW KEY. THE GOC HAS ANNOUNCED THAT IT IS INQUIRING INTO THE WELFARE AND WHEREABOUTS OF THE YOUTHS.

4. COMMENT: WE HAVE FOUND NO RECORDS IN EMBASSY REPORTING OF THE PERIOD ABOUT THE GRANTS. ALTHOUGH THE PRESS HAS PROTRAYED THE STUDENTS AS 13-16 YEAR OLD CHILDREN, A 1973 VINTAGE ISSUE OF COMMUNIST "EL SIGLO" STATES THAT THEY WERE AGED 16-22 -- HARDLY CHILDREN.

5. THE GOC HAS NOT CHOSEN TO PLAY UP THIS ALLEGED "ABDUCTION" OF CHILEAN YOUTHS. PERHAPS IT FEARS THAT THOSE INVOLVED WILL PUBLICLY DENOUNCE THE GOC AND EXTOLL THE VIRTUES OF THE SOVIET SYSTEM, OR IT MAY NOT WANT TO ENCOURAGE THE RETURN OF PRESUMABLY COMMUNIST INDOCTRINED YOUNG PEOPLE. ONE PARENT, FOR EXAMPLE, EXPRESSED ANXIETY ABOUT WHAT SORT OF RECEPTION THE GOC MIGHT ACCORD ANY OF THE STUDENTS WHO WISHED TO COME HOME.

6. WE WOULD APPRECIATE ANY READILY AVAILABLE INFORMATION IN MOSCOW OR THE DEPARTMENT BEARING ON THIS STORY, WHICH EVENTUALLY NO DOUBT WILL FIND ITS WAY INTO THE INTERNATIONAL PRESS.
POPPER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 07-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Litigation History:
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